



The Maryland Port Administration **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2006

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National Environmental Award Presented To Maryland Port Administration

BALTIMORE, MD -- The Maryland Port Administration along with its partners, United States Army Corp. of Engineers, Baltimore District and EA Engineering Science and Technology, Inc were the recipients of the National Association of Environmental Professionals' (NAEP) award for the Poplar Island Project. Only six National Environmental Excellence Awards were presented this year by the NAEP.

"We are exceedingly proud to have received this award along with our partners," said Brooks Royster, Executive Director of the Maryland Port Administration. "The Poplar Island Project has shown the world that economic and environmental factors do not have to be at odds with each other. Poplar Island is a win-win situation for both commerce and conservation."

The MPA and its partners received the award in the category of Environmental Stewardship. "The National Environmental Excellence Awards are to recognize the nationally significant proven environmental achievements from across the country," said NAEP Chairman Jim Melton. "We recognize outstanding environmental projects or program excellence in eight different categories that are submitted each year from a variety of sources such as Federal, State and Local Agencies, cities and towns, companies, groups, individuals, environmental firms and our members that represent a diverse cross-section of outstanding success stories in the environmental field."

By 1998, only four acres remained of the original 1,140 acres of land known as Poplar Island. In an effort to contain dredged materials, the Poplar Island restoration project began. Today the island is back to its original size and will be fully operational as a wildlife habitat by 2014. At the completion of the project over 40 million cubic yards of dredged material will have been placed. Once completed, the island will include 570 acres of upland habitat and 570 acres of inter-tidal wetlands.

For more information on the Poplar Island Project, go to www.marylandports.com.

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